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Inventory for

Manuscript Collection
MS - 167

Lincoln Family Account Books

1850-1900
Bulk: 1850-1869

by
Elisabeth Meier
May 2018

½ box and one oversize box
1.7 linear feet
Accession no. 66.1762, 74.152.4

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Abstract

Ebed Lincoln (1805-1867)
William P. Lincoln, Captain (1842-1884)
Account Books, 1850-1900
Bulk dates: 1850-1869
½ box and one oversize box
Sea captains and grocers from Bath, Maine
This collection contains two account books from the *Annie Kimball* (bark), commanded by Captain William P. Lincoln, and one account book from a Bath grocer, probably Ebed Lincoln. The *Annie Kimball* books contain detailed accounts of the vessel's outfitting, port dues, repairs, and crew wages while in the Atlantic cotton trade. They also have accounts from Captain James O. Lincoln aboard the Sewall bark *Frank Marion*.
Gift of James B. Drake and Frederick E. Drake, Jr.
MS-167. Accession #1966.1762 and 1974.152.4.
Finding aid (folder level control) in repository.

Added entries—persons:
Kimball, John H. (1823-1901)
Lincoln, Ebed (1805-1867)
Lincoln, James O., Captain (1837-1869)
Lincoln, William P., Captain (1842-1884)
Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):
Annie Kimball (bark)
E & A Sewall Co.
Frank Marion (bark)
Added entries—key terms:
Accounts
Bath (ME) – Businesses
Cotton trade
Grocery trade
Harbors – Port charges
Marine Towing
Merchant seamen
Merchant seamen – Desertion
Merchant seamen – Salaries, etc.
Ship captains
Ships – Cabins
Ships – Equipment and supplies
Ships – Maintenance and repair
Ships – Owners
Wages

Acquisition

The *Annie Kimball* account books were given to the museum by James B. Drake in 1966. Ebed Lincoln's grocer's account book followed in 1974 as a gift from Frederick E. Drake, James's brother. Both were part of larger gifts of material from the James B. Drake & Sons and D.M. Humphreys & Co. insurance agencies, now in MS-8. The volumes could have descended by family or professional ties through either the Drake or Humphreys families, but their precise provenance is not known.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on this collection.

Physical Condition

The covers of all three volumes are battered and worn, but the bindings are flexible and the ink and paper in good condition. The grocer's account book has evidence of mold on the covers and some water stains on the pages. Leaves have been cut from the grocer's account book and one of the *Annie Kimball* books.

Related Materials

More material from Captain William P. Lincoln can be found in MS-22, the Sewall Family Papers. That collection includes Lincoln's personal letter copy books (box 545, folders 18-20) and business documents from his command of the Sewall's *El Capitan* (boxes 298-301). James O. Lincoln and the *Frank Marion* are also represented in MS 22 (boxes 316-319).

SM 49/1 is a logbook from the *C.O. Whitmore*, another of John H. Kimball's vessels commanded by Denny McCobb Humphreys.

Historical Note

Ebed Lincoln (1805-1867) had a varied career in Bath, Maine. He was a boatman for the Bath Customs District during the 1820s, a city councilman in the 1840s, and an active investor in Bath ships.[1] By 1850, he listed himself as a "trader" in the census, and apparently operated a grocery business in town. He also spent substantial time at sea, in part as the captain of the schooner *Wilmington* in the 1840s and the schooner *Pennsylvania* circa 1860.

Ebed Lincoln married Eliza Young. They had six children who survived to adulthood: James O. (1837-1869), George M. (b. 1839), William P. (1842-1884), Celia (b. 1852), Mary (b. 1853), and Sarah (b. 1858).

William P. Lincoln went to sea as a teenager and, aside from two years in the Army during the Civil War, spent his entire career afloat. He took command of the *Annie Kimball* (bark) in the late 1860s, followed by the *Anna Camp* (ship) and, in 1873, the Sewall's new *El Capitan* (ship). William P. Lincoln never married, but supported his mother, aunt, and three unmarried sisters on his earnings. He retired from the sea in 1882 due to ill health and died at home in Bath in 1884.

[1] Peter Force, *The National Calendar and Annals of the United* States v. 5 (Washington, DC: Davis & Force, 1824): 76; *Sixteenth Municipal Register of the City of Bath* (Bath, ME: Daily Sentinel and Times Press, 1868): 10.

James O. Lincoln (1837-1869) had an even shorter career than his brother. He died in command of the Sewall bark *Frank Marion* on a passage from Batavia to Holland at age 32.

The *Annie Kimball* (bark) was launched in Brunswick, Maine, in 1856. She was built by John C. Humphreys (1798-1865), who owned a sawmill and shipyard near present-day Cook's Corner; owned by Humphreys' son-in-law, John H. Kimball (1823-1901); and named for Humphreys' daughter and Kimball's wife, Annie (1828-1890).

Once afloat, the *Annie Kimball* sailed in the transatlantic cotton trade and related routes, frequenting New Orleans and continental European ports. She was chartered by the US Government to carry stores during the Civil War, a contract that ended in a lawsuit over the terms of the charter. Apart from that, her career was largely without incident.

The *Annie Kimball* was sold to John S. Turnilty of Liverpool in 1876. She disappears from Lloyd's a few years later.

Scope and Content Note

Two of the three account books in this collection were kept by Captain William P. Lincoln for the *Annie Kimball* (bark). The first is a summary of the *Annie Kimball*'s accounts from 1867 to 1869. It records port expenses, commissions, outfitting, maintenance, and repairs in cotton trade ports like New Orleans, Charleston, Havre, Liverpool, Boston, and New York. The volume also includes Captain James O. Lincoln's accounts for the *Frank Marion* (bark) during the same time period, covering his journey from New Orleans to Cronstadt (St. Petersburg), London, Yokohama, and Batavia.

The second volume records the wages and advances paid to the *Annie Kimball*'s crew from 1866 to 1869. This is a detailed account that includes names, dates of service, role aboard ship, when and where money was advanced, and the crew's signatures. It also includes accounts for deserters.

The third volume is an account book for an unidentified Bath grocer, probably William P. Lincoln's father Ebed Lincoln. It records provisions sold to individuals or vessels, occasionally in return for shingles, lumber products, or work done aboard ship. About 1900, the volume was reused by thirteen-year-old Ada Fraser, who worked briefly as a servant in the Lincoln family home.

Box and Folder List

Box	Folder	
1	1	Ship's accounts, *Annie Kimball* (bark) and *Frank Marion* (bark), 1867-1969
	2	Crew accounts, *Annie Kimball*, (bark), 1866-1869
	3	Papers inserted in crew account book, folder 2
Oversize		
2	1	Account book, Bath grocer (Ebed Lincoln), 1850-1853; Ada Fraser accounts, 1900